



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

June 6, 2005

CONVICTED ARMS TRAFFICKER DEPORTED TO CHINA

LOS ANGELES – A Thousand Oaks businessman who attempted to illegally export parts and technology for military fighter jets and missile systems to his native country of China has been deported. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that Jinghua Zhuang, 35, was returned to China over the weekend.

Zhuang and his wife Xiuwen “Jennifer” Liang were each sentenced to 30 months in prison after a probe by ICE and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service revealed the pair sought to sell defense articles and military parts over the Internet to foreign buyers without obtaining export licenses or complying with the arms embargoes.

Specifically, ICE agents say the couple, who owned a Thousand Oaks-based company called Maytone International, attempted to illegally export components for F-14 fighter jets, HAWK missile systems, Tow missile systems, and guidance technology for AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles to China.

The two were arrested in February 2003 following a five-year undercover investigation. The judge in the case delayed imposing sentence on Liang, 34, until April so she could care for the couple’s children while Zhuang was in prison. Liang is now serving her 30-month sentence and will also face deportation when she fulfills her prison term.

“Companies that jeopardize America’s security for the sake of profits are priority targets for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security,” said Loraine Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Los Angeles. “The sensitive items this company sought to export are controlled for good reason – in the wrong hands, they pose threats to U.S. forces abroad and to Americans at home.”

Under the Arms Export Control Act and International Traffic in Arms Regulations, the transfer of military aircraft parts is prohibited without an export license for reasons of U.S. national security. There are currently embargoes in place against the transfer of such parts to the People’s Republic of China. Because of the embargoes, it is illegal to sell or transfer or propose to sell or transfer any defense articles to the People’s Republic of China or to any person acting on behalf of a Chinese entity without a license.

ICE